

Whereas PTSD significantly increases the risk of anxiety, depression, suicide, homelessness, and drug- and alcohol-related disorders and deaths, especially if left untreated;

Whereas public perceptions of PTSD or other mental health disorders create unique challenges for veterans seeking employment;

Whereas the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as the larger medical community, both private and public, have made significant advances in the identification, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and the symptoms of PTSD, but many challenges remain;

Whereas increased understanding of post-traumatic stress can help eliminate the stigma attached to this mental health issue;

Whereas additional efforts are needed to find further ways to eliminate the stigma associated with post-traumatic stress, including—

- (1) an examination of how post-traumatic stress is discussed in the United States; and
- (2) a recognition that post-traumatic stress is a common injury that is treatable and repairable;

Whereas post-traumatic stress can result from any number of stressors other than combat, including rape, sexual assault, battery, torture, confinement, child abuse, car accidents, train wrecks, plane crashes, bombings, or natural disasters, and affects approximately 8,000,000 adults in the United States annually; and

Whereas the designation of a National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month and a National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day will raise public awareness about issues related to post-traumatic stress, reduce the associated stigma, and help ensure that those individuals suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 2016 as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month” and June 27, 2016, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day”;

(2) supports the efforts of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense, as well as the entire medical community, to educate members of the Armed Forces of the United States, veterans, the families of members of the Armed Forces of the United States and veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress;

(3) welcomes the efforts of the National Center for PTSD of the Department of Veterans Affairs and local Vet Centers (as defined in section 1712A(h) of title 38, United States Code) to provide assistance to veterans who are suffering from the effects of this injury;

(4) encourages commanders of the Armed Forces of the United States to support appropriate treatment of men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who are diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder; and

(5) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4857. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related

Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4858. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. KAINE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KING, Mr. NELSON, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2578, supra.

SA 4859. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. RUBIO)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4858 submitted by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. KAINE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KING, Mr. NELSON, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. WARNER) to the bill H.R. 2578, supra.

SA 4860. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4859 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. RUBIO)) to the amendment SA 4858 submitted by Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. KAINE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KING, Mr. NELSON, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. WARNER) to the bill H.R. 2578, supra.

SA 4861. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5293, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4862. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4863. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4864. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. NELSON) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 39, honoring the members of the United States Air Force who were casualties of the June 25, 1996, terrorist bombing of the United States Sector Khobar Towers military housing complex on Dhahran Air Base.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4857. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5. ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS FOR OUR VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 55 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§5511. Conditions for treatment of certain persons as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this section, in any case arising

out of the administration by the Secretary of laws and benefits under this title, the Secretary shall not determine a person to be adjudicated as a mental defective under subsection (d)(4) or (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18 unless the Federal Government has met the burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that the person is a danger to self or others. The process to determine whether such person is a danger to self or others, as set forth in this section, shall be separate from the Department's process to determine a person mentally incompetent for the purposes of assigning a fiduciary. A person that is subject to the process that may result in a finding that he or she is a danger to self or others shall be provided formal notice and a process by which to challenge the Federal Government's position, and shall be provided written notice of the effect of the ruling with respect to their ability to own and possess firearms and the protections granted under this section.

“(b) MEDICAL REVIEW.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The process by which a person may be determined to be a danger to self or others shall be initiated, with the exception of those persons described in subsection (i)(1), only after 2 health care professionals of the Department conclude, based on clear and convincing medical evidence, that the person is a danger to self or others.

“(2) LIMITATION.—If a conclusion by 2 health care professionals of the Department that a person is a danger to self or others is not made in accordance with paragraph (1), the Federal Government may not begin the process to find that such person is a danger to self or others.

“(c) PROCESS.—If a conclusion that a person is a danger to self or others is made under subsection (b)(1), not later than 30 days after that date on which such conclusion is made, the Department shall provide notice to the person, in writing, of the medical finding, the rights and protections afforded by this section, and the effect of a future administrative or judicial ruling with respect to the ability of the person to own and possess firearms.

“(d) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—(1) Except as provided in subsection (i), not later than 60 days after the date on which a person described in subsection (a) receives notice of the pendency of the Federal Government action to determine whether or not such person is a danger to self or others, such person may request a review by the board designed or established under paragraphs (2) and (3) or a court of competent jurisdiction to determine whether such person is a danger to self or others. If such person does not specify a forum, the Federal Government shall choose the forum. In such assessment, the board may consider the person's honorable discharge or decoration and other mitigating factors.

“(2) Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall designate or establish a board that shall, upon request of a person under subsection (a), make a determination after both parties have presented their case as to whether a person is a danger to self or others. If the board determines that the Federal Government failed to prove that the person is a danger to self or others, the person shall not be required to present his or her case.

“(3) The board shall consist of 3 former or current Federal judicial officers for a term of two years each and a majority decision shall control.

“(4) A determination by the board designated or established under paragraphs (2) or by a court of competent jurisdiction that a person does not meet the standard under subsection (f) shall preclude the Secretary from reporting such person to the National